

**REMARKS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 2, 10, 13, and 15 were previously cancelled. Claims 1, 3-9, 11, 12, 14, and 16-20 are pending. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 16, and 17 are amended, and claims 18-20 are added. Claims 1 and 19 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

**Examiner Interview**

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicant's Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at her convenience.

**Claim for Priority**

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority.

**Restriction Requirement**

The Examiner has made the Restriction Requirement final, and has withdrawn claims 3-9, 11, 12, 14, 15, and 17 from further consideration. Withdrawn claims 3-9, 11, 12, 14 and 17 remain pending.

When independent claim 1 is found to be allowable, the Applicant requests that the Examiner rejoin and consider each of the dependent claims.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph**

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Examiner has set forth certain instances wherein the claim language is not clearly understood.

In order to overcome this rejection, the Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct each of the deficiencies specifically pointed out by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

**Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 1 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rison (U.S. 1,066,754) in view of Barnard (U.S. 4,752,105). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

**Amendments to Independent Claim 1**

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a caster, including *inter alia*

“first and second wheels attached to a mounting leg;

at least one of the first and second wheels is pivotably attached to the mounting leg.”

Support for the novel features of independent claim 1 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 1 and 2.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art of record, including Rison and Barnard.

**Regarding the Rison Reference**

Rison merely discloses each of wheels 19 and 21 having axes that are fixed with respect to frame 11.

**Regarding the Barnard Reference**

Barnard merely discloses wheels 14 and 16 which are slidable in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle on slide 30.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Rison and Barnard.

Therefore, independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

**New Independent Claim 19**

Independent claim 19 has been added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a caster, including *inter alia*

“wherein the first wheel and the second wheel are offset with respect to each other in the axial direction of the wheels.”

Support for the novel features of independent claim 19 can be seen, for example, in FIGS. 1-4.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements set forth in independent claim 19 is not disclosed or made obvious by the applied prior art of record, including Rison and Barnard.

**Regarding the Rison Reference**

Rison merely discloses wheels 19 and 21 which are not offset with respect to each other in the axial direction of the wheels. The Rison device merely includes wheels 19 and 21 extending between vertical sides 12 and 13. of the frame 11.

**Regarding the Barnard Reference**

Barnard merely discloses wheels 16 which are located directly behind wheels 14.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 19 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Rison and Barnard.

Therefore, independent claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

**Dependent Claims**

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3-5, 7-9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17 have been amended to further clarify the claimed subject matter. Dependent claims 18 and 20 have been added.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

All pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

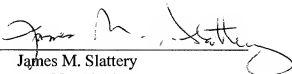
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, she is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

**Date: August 13, 2009**

By   
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